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Message Text

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47
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CU-04 USIA-12 AID-20 PC-15 IO-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 /101 W
---------- 111589
R 181232 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6437

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0920

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 70302; OUAGA 842

1. RE PART I " YOUTH CATEGORIES", RATIONALE FOR ASSIGNING
WEIGHT VARIOUS YOUTH CATEGORIES IS ANTICIPATED IMPACT EACH GROUP
ON FUTURE POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTRY. RE SHORT- TERM
YOUTH IMPACT, THERE IS NOTICEABLE TENDENCY ON PART YOUTH IN
ALL CITED CATEGORIES FAVOR LEFTWARD POLICY SHIFT, INCLUDING
STEPPED- UP RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AFRICAN SOLIDARITY
ON ISSUES WHERE US AND AFRICAN POSITIONS TEND DIFFER, SUPPORT
FOR ARABS AGAINST ISRAEL, AND RESENTMENT OF ALLEGED INDIFFERENCE
ON PART OF MAJOR WORLD POWERS TO PLIGHT OF POOREST OF THE POOR.
THIS COULD IMPLY GENERAL COOLING IN RELATIONS WITH USA AND SOME
DAMAGE TO US INTERESTS AS ALREADY IDENTIFIED UPPER VOLTA PARA.
VOLTAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION, FOR EXAMPLE TAKES INCREASINGLY
MILITANT THIRD WORLD STANCE AND IS LIKELY TO GROW IN INFLUENCE
AS NASCENT UNIVERSITY DEVELOPS.

2. RE PART II " OBJECTIVES", RATIONALE IS SPECIFICALLY
TO SUPPORT OUR POLITICAL/ DIPLOMATIC
INTERESTS OUTLINED IN PARA
AND IN GENERAL SUPPORT THE OTHER US INTERESTS IN PARA. POL/ DIP
INTERESTS ARE STRENGTHEN VOLTAN UNDERSTANDING/ SUPPORT US
POSITIONS
ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES; ENCOURAGE VOLTAN CONTRIBUTION TO
RESOLUTION WORLD ORDER ISSUES; AND IMPROVE VOLTAN UNDERSTANDING
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OF US SOCIETY. FIRST FIVE OBJECTIVES OUAGA REFTEL (65 PERCENT) DIRECTLY SUPPORT THESE US INTERESTS, WHILE REMAINING 35 PERCENT ARE ESSENTIALLY BACKGROUND/ SUPPORT IN NATURE.

3. RE PART III " RESOURCES", PERCENTAGE WEIGHTS OUAGADOUGOU REFTEL ARE BASED ON PROGRAMS DIRECTLY AFFECTING YOUTH CATEGORIES (TRAVEL/ STUDY/ TRAINING GRANTS, CULTURAL/ INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS). HOWEVER, US AID PROGRAMS DIRECTED AT PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES
OF VOLTAN NATION ARE AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT INENCOURAGING FAVORABLE ATTITUDE ON PART OF YOUTH, EVEN THOUGH THIS EFFECT IS INDIRECT IN NATURE. THESE DEVELOPMENT AREAS AS PERCEIVED BY VOLTANS INCLUDE CEREALS, WATER, LIVESTOCK, OTHER AGRICULTURAL, HEALTH, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, PEACE CORPS IS PERCEIVED BY VOLTANS AS IMPORTANT ELEMENT US ASSISTANCE EFFORT, AND IT IS ALSO HIGHLY IMPORTANT CHANNEL FOR CONTACT BETWEEN AMERICANS AND VOLTAN YOUTH IN FRAMEWORK
WHICH TENDS DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIDENCE.

4. USIS HERE HAS SHIFTED PROGRAMMING FROM SECONDARY TO UNIVERSITY LEVEL STUDENTS OVER LAST TWO YEARS BUT WE WONDER WHETHER SUFFICIENT USIS EFFORTS BEING DIRECTED AT STILL- IMPORTANT CONCENTRATION OF VOLTAN STUDENTS IN FRANCE. BELIEVE THERE IS RESERVOIR OF POTENTIAL PRIVATE AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO VOLTANS, INCLUDING YOUTH, WHICH HAS HARDLY BEEN TAPPED. CERTAIN FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, AND UNIVERSITIES WOULD, WE THINK, RESPOND TO VOLTAN YOUTH NEEDS IF MADE AWARE OF THEM. SUCH NEEDS INCLUDE STATESIDE SCHOLARSHIPS (ESPECIALLY GRADUATE LEVEL), SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, AND ATHLETIC AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

5. RE PART IV " RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH", BELIEVE IMPORTANCE IN UPPER VOLTA IS ABOVE- AVERAGEBECAUSE PRESENT GOVERNING ELITE IS WEARNG THIN, GROWING TIRED, AND ON WAY OUT.
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